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point out some general tendencies in legislative procedure. That statute-making is becoming a science requiring specialization in training and practice is clearly shown. Increasing attention to legislation is reducing the number of acts passed each session. The growing tendency toward general legislation rather than special is pointed out.

Two most interesting and valuable sections are those on the drafting of statutes and the form and language of statutes. Immediate causes for defective statutes, according to the author, are the imperfection of human speech in general and the language and style of statutes in particular. Over legislation, coupled with poor drafting, he says, is the great cause of loose laws; and further, that legislatures rely altogether too much upon the courts for the correction of mistakes and relief from abuses or omissions in the bills passed.

The content of the volume is made up from the following sections: History and Organization of the Legislature in Iowa, by John E. Briggs; Law-making Powers of the Legislature, by Benjamin F. Shambaugh; Methods of Statute Law-making, by O. K. Patton; Form and Language of Statutes, by Jacob Van Der Zee; Codification of Statute Law, by Dan E. Clark; Interpretation and Construction of Statutes, by O. K. Patton; The Drafting of Statutes, by Jacob Van Der Zee; The Committee System, by Frank E. Horack; and Some Abuses Connected with Statute Law-making, by Ivan L. Pollock.

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STOWELL, ELLERY C. and MUNRO, HENRY F. *International Cases*. Vol. II, *War and Neutrality*. Pp. xvii, 662. Price, \$3.50. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1916.

EVANS, LAWRENCE B. *Leading Cases on International Law*. Pp. xix, 477. Price, \$3.50. Chicago: Callaghan and Company, 1917.

For many years it was taken for granted that international law could not be studied by the case method. The result was that the teaching of this subject took the form of a branch of ethics rather than of law. Since the appearance of Snow's cases on international law, and particularly the valuable collection edited by James Brown Scott, there has been a marked change of opinion with reference to the method of teaching the subject. With the admirable collection now placed at the disposal of students by Professors Stowell and Munro, there is no longer any reason why international law should not take as definite a place in the curriculum of our law schools as any other branch of jurisprudence. The two volumes of Professors Stowell and Munro contain the most comprehensive collection available to students of the subject. The volume before us deals with the law of war and the law of neutrality. The cases have been selected with great care, but what is of equal value to students is that the classification of cases and the sub-division of subjects is far more elaborate than in any previous work on the subject. These volumes will serve to clarify many of the vague and in some cases erroneous ideas prevailing with reference to the nature and content of international law.

Mr. Evans's book, although not as exhaustive as the work of Scott and Stowell, possesses the great advantage of placing a collection of convenient size in the

hands of students for use in connection with special courses on the subject. In the arrangement of cases Mr. Evans has wisely followed the usual subdivisions of the treatises on International Law, so that his book can readily be used with any of the standard commentaries. His cases have been selected with the greatest care and adequately illustrate every phase of the subject.

One cannot help but feel that at the close of the war it will be necessary to publish new editions of many of these case books, owing to the fact that there will be available a large number of decisions modifying accepted jurisprudence with reference to questions of international law.

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WILLOUGHBY, WILLIAM F.; WILLOUGHBY, WESTEL W.; and LINDSAY, SAMUEL McCUNE. *The Financial Administration of Great Britain*. Pp. xv, 361. Price, \$2.75. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1917.

This report is the result of an investigation made in Great Britain in the summer of 1914 by the authors acting as an unofficial commission, and is now published by the recently established Institute for Government Research. It presents a detailed and somewhat technical account of the administrative procedure in the United Kingdom in connection with the preparation of estimates, the action thereon in Parliament, the disbursement of public funds, the Treasury control over expenditures, the audit of public accounts and the system of financial reports. This is based on a close study of official documents and reports, especially the report of the Select Committee on National Expenditure (1902), and the Report of the Select Committee on Estimates (1912).

This study should be of great value in working out improved budget and finance methods in this country. And in the conclusions, the report calls attention to some fundamental factors which have been hitherto almost ignored in most of the writings on these subjects,—the distinction between formulating a budgetary program and the action by the legislative body on such a program and the importance of organs and a procedure for an effective supervision over the acts of administrative officers.

Serviceable as is this report, it is in some respects open to criticism. In view of the use made of the report of the Select Committee on Estimates in 1912, it is surprising that there is nothing from the reports of this committee in 1913 and 1914. The latter reports deal with the Navy and Army Estimates; and an examination of them shows (as is pointed out by E. H. Young in *The System of National Finance*, 1915) that the Treasury control over the estimates for military expenditures is much less intensive and effective than it is over the civil service estimates, and that the decision on these important parts of the budget not infrequently is made in the Cabinet.

One of the principles of the British system is stated (p. 275) to be that the Treasury, in exercising control over the preparation of estimates and expenditure of funds, acts in effect as an agent of Parliament. But it is not made clear how the Treasury is now any more an agent of Parliament than are the other executive departments.